

Unanimous Approval of Rabbi, Officers and Va'ad

There was an exciting feeling in the air as the Congregation broke into an enthusiastic chorus of *Haveinu Shalom Aleichem* following the unanimous vote (63-0-0) to accept the Rabbi Search Committee's recommendation that Sha'ar Zahav hire Rabbi Yoel Kahn as our spiritual leader. The date was Sunday, May 5, and the occasion was our semi-annual Congregational Meeting. This important recommendation came as the result of an extensive search process which took place over the last two years, during which the committee scrutinized 25 applications. Rabbi Kahn is currently completing his final year of rabbinic studies at Hebrew Union College in New York City, and the plan is for him to join us this July.

Another highlight of the meeting was the election of officers and members of the Va'ad. Don Albert was elected President, Leslie Bergson as Vice President, and Richard Inlander as Recorder. Elected to the Va'ad were Allyce Kimerling, Garry Koenigsberg, Shirley Liberman, Irene Osgus, and Mike Rankin. The Congregation voted unanimously to approve three bylaw amendments concerning accountability to

the Va'ad of standing committees, and concerning the functions of the Building and Membership Committees.

In her President's Report, Leila Raim spoke of the significant events in our congregational life over the last six months and touched on events to come in the near future. In addition, she spoke enthusiastically about the proposed hiring of Rabbi Kahn and of her deep feelings for the Congregation. Treasurer David Stein presented a summary of revenues and expenses for the third quarter of 1984-85 and the proposed budget for 1985-86, which was unanimously approved by the Congregation.

Representatives of each of the standing committees of the Congregation presented summaries of their committees' recent and upcoming activities. Mike Rankin, our liaison with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, also presented a report of his work within the Union over the past months. A delightful "mini-recital" by our very own Sha'ar Zahav Ensemble concluded the meeting and clearly exemplified the wonderful spirit of mishpacha and cooperation that is Sha'ar Zahav!

—Mark Mendelow, Recorder



Adventures at Irwin

On April 13, the Women's Havurah sponsored our semi-annual Blood Drive at Irwin Memorial Blood Bank. Unfortunately, due to illness and prior commitments of many of our sisters, only Laurie, Leslie and I were able to donate blood on that day. But our impact on the Blood Bank will hopefully go farther than our three pints of blood.

When we got there, we were greeted by hugs and smiles from many wonderful men from the Brotherhood, ready to act as "candy striper". The processing was routine, but suddenly we realized that we were "on hold" for no apparent reason. Apparently that day's supervisor had decided that since we had said we were with a "gay" organization, we must all be AIDS carriers. We pointed out to them that all of the prospective donors were obviously female and not at high risk for AIDS according to their own literature, but that didn't seem to make much of an impression.

After some diplomatic maneuvers by Leila and Ron, the Irwin staff got in touch with Dr. Serl Rosenschein, the Acting Medical Director, who confirmed that lesbians are not, in fact, at risk for AIDS and instructed the staff to take our blood. Dr. Rosenschein, in a later letter to Leila and Ron reassured us that:

"I have received a memorandum to all members of our Collection and Recruitment staff, clearly stating that lesbians are safe blood donors and should in fact be recruited. In addition, our next "in-house training" for the nursing staff will include educating them further on all aspects of the AIDS epidemic and its impact on the blood bank. Let me assure you that we will do all we can to properly educate our staff about AIDS and its transmission."

We will again have a blood drive after the High Holidays. After all, why should a little ignorance get in our way of doing a mitzvah?

On the brighter side, many thanks to Tiela for setting up the blood drive, to Jim, Allan, Ron, Leila, and many members of the Brotherhood for their TLC and wonderful munchies.

—Allyce Kimerling, Chair
Women's Havurah

President's Column

This is it! No Rocky Mountain High, no High Sierra High, could be as high as the note on which I bring to a conclusion my year as President of Sha'ar Zahav. All of the year has been a pleasure and a privilege. I know it has been a wonderful year for me and I hope my efforts have made it a wonderful year for our Congregation. As we look back, there is much to recall with a smile and much to reflect on with pride. As we look forward, our horizons are limited only by our imaginations, our capacities defined only by our commitment to accomplish. We have never lacked vision or chutzpa or energy; that is how we have

come so far in eight short years. That is why the future beckons endlessly before us. Take a moment now to be proud of your Congregation and your contributions to it. Take another moment to commit yourself to its future.

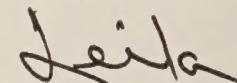
That future has been made all the brighter by what, in my estimation, is the single most exciting happening in Sha'ar Zahav since we acquired our Home of Our Own! The "high" I was referring to at the beginning of this column, the new pinnacle we have reached, revolves around our decision to engage Rabbi Yoel Kahn to serve with us, to strive with us, to commit with us to the defining and realization of our future. He is a gifted, vibrant and dedicated young rabbi whose vision parallels our own. He brings boundless energy and intellectual stimulation, spirituality and a deep dedication to Jewish life and social justice, and, no small matter, a sense of the joy of life and an ability to have fun. It is with a singular sense of pride that I welcome our rabbi and look upon our decision to engage him as the outstanding accomplishment of my administration. With deep gratitude on behalf of the entire congregation, I express our thanks for two tireless years of dedicated service to the other members of the Rabbi Search Committee: co-chair Aaron Cooper, Daniel Chesir, Jonathan Funk, Mark Mendelow, Cheryl Orvis (under whose presidency this committee was convened) and Sharyn Saslafsky. Thanks also to Joanne Wolfe, who served for one year until leaving to attend rabbinic school.

I cannot express to you, although I have tried many times, the depth of the honor

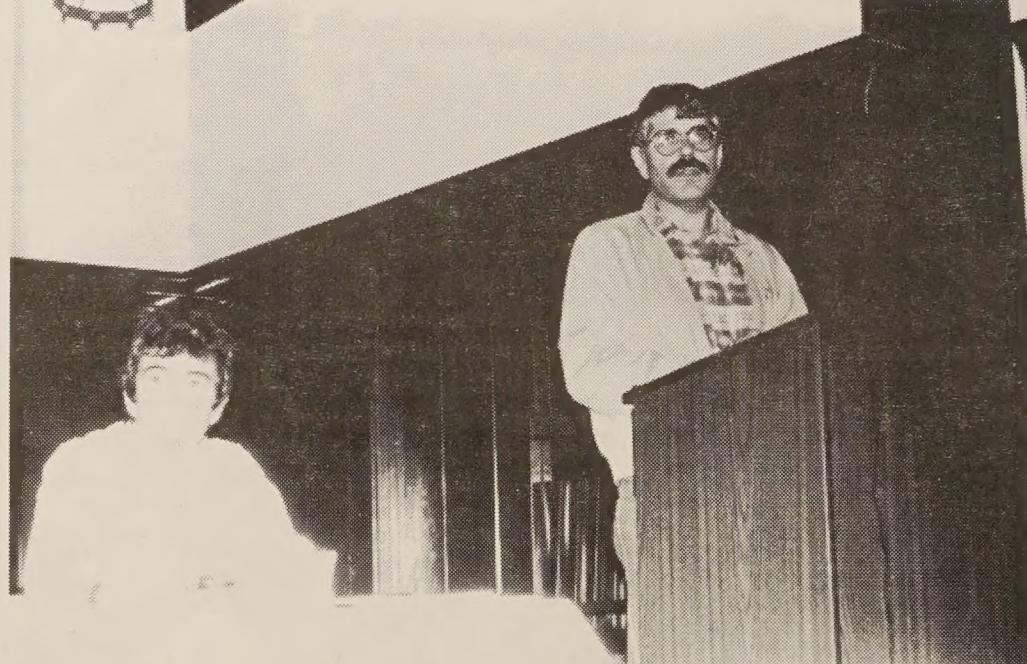
you have accorded me by allowing me to serve as your President. I have earnestly tried to do my very best throughout the year and, where you have seen success in our undertakings, I want to share credit with other members of the leadership — officers, Va'ad members and committee chairs, and with all those tireless members of Sha'ar Zahav's family who work to make it all happen [Editor's Note: President's Honors will appear in the July issue.] Most especially I must tell you all that without the support and dedication of my Vice-President, Don Albert ...well, suffice to say that everything would have been harder and nothing would have gone quite so well. With total confidence I look forward to his leadership in the coming year.

Before I undertook the Presidency, I shook with trepidation at the amount of work it would be and the *tsuris* I would have to deal with. I won't lie to you; it was hard work and there was *tsuris*. What I didn't know was how much *fun* it would be and that, in the final reckoning, it gave to me more than it took from me! I am not disappearing into the woodwork; I don't need a year off. I have been supercharged by this congregation and will continue, with great enthusiasm, to work, play, grow and share with you all. Together We Make It All Happen!

B'ahava u-shalom,



Treasurer David Stein reporting to the Congregation while President Leila Raim looks concerned.



Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with a frequency discount of 10% for six or more issues. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5.00 for up to 20 words, plus \$1.00 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. *The Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

Schindler, Falwell, and Faith in Action: The Consultation on Conscience

I knew, of course, when I signed up for the UAHC sponsored "Consultation on Conscience" in Washington in April that the debate between Rabbi Schindler and Jerry Falwell wouldn't be the whole conference, any more than the "Leibestod" is all of *Tristian* or Aunt Yente all of *The Forward*. But I did think it might be the best part.

The debate took place alright — more a presentation of divergent views really — but it wasn't what I expected. It wasn't what *any* of us expected, and in a moment I'll tell you about it.

The Commission on Social Justice of the UAHC is made up of representatives from reform congregations all around the country who come together several times a year to discuss the important social issues of the day, and to plan a response to them. These issues include Soviet and Ethiopian Jewry, civil rights, the separation of church and state, the First and Fourth Amendments, economic justice, black-Jewish relations, environmental health, and the prevention of a nuclear holocaust. Members of the Commission take these discussions back to their congregations, especially to their social action committees, to develop a plan of action for their communities.

Once a year the Commission meets in conjunction with a larger group, and the larger meeting is called the "Consultation on Conscience". This was the meeting I attended. I was not representing Sha'ar Zahav, by the way, or lobbying for any particular position. I went as a concerned individual, simply to learn. And learn we did, from rabbis and senators and representatives and lobbyists and agency heads, and activists like Mary Travers.

Mary spoke on the sanctuary movement, as did Rabbi Marshall Meyer. Howard Metzenbaum and Alan Cranston spoke on the arms race, Representative Claudine Schneider on women and health care; others on civil rights, South Africa and the endangered Jewish communities. Here is a brief summary:

1. The famine in Africa: It is still massive, despite relief efforts from around the world, including the United States and Israel. No child who gets to the refugee camps and is strong enough to survive the first day will die of malnutrition — but infectious disease is rampant. Jewish American physicians have gone to Ethiopia to work in the camps, but they are prohibited from working in the Jewish villages.

2. Ethiopian Jewry: About 8,000 remain in Ethiopia, and *dawka*, they are not forgotten. But it will be very difficult to get them out. The government will not allow anyone to visit the villages now. Meanwhile, despite the nuttiness of certain rabbis in Israel who question their Jewishness, absorption is taking place rapidly. Once in Israel, they are learning Hebrew quickly, and are proving themselves to be bright, creative people who are already making a contribution to the nation.

3. Soviet Jewry: It's too soon to tell what Gorbachev will do about immigration, the "prisoners of conscience", and Hebrew teachers who are in jail. The National Conference on Soviet Jewry has been effective in building support in Congress, and Tip O'Neill's delegation made it clear to the Soviets how important this issue is to improved Soviet-American relations.

4. South Africa: There will be a strong statement on apartheid at the UAHC Biennial in October. Malnutrition is endemic in black children in South Africa; more than half die before the age of 5. There is one physician for every 400 white South Africans, one for every 40,000 black South Africans. The speaker urged withdrawal of all investment in South Africa, despite the loss of jobs. He felt international sanctions and pressure were the last chance for peaceful change. There are several bills in Congress which would prohibit new investment, or the export of military equipment.

5. Nuclear War: None of the senators and representatives who spoke were hopeful that the massive arms buildup on both sides would soon stop. No one had much hope for the current talks in Geneva. In the U.S., the president seems to get pretty much what he wants from Congress; and in the Soviet Union, Gorbachev is consolidating his power and isn't likely to make any bold moves for peace.

6. Civil Rights: The "Grove City" Supreme Court decision of 1984 apparently limits those protections granted minorities, women, the disabled and the elderly in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent legislation. There is before Congress a new bill, the "Bipartisan Civil Rights Restoration Act" (S 431/H.R. 700) which would restore them. The House will vote on it in May, but Senators Hatch and Helms strongly oppose it and will not let it out of the Senate committee. They and their supporters claim it will mandate abortion, gay

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rights and racial quotas. The authors of the bill say it has nothing to do with any of those issues.

7. Central and South America and the Sanctuary Movement: Several synagogues have offered "site" sanctuary to refugees, others provide food, clothing, free legal counsel and medical care. Congregations considering it were urged to become aware of the legal implications as well as the ethical imperatives. Sha'ar Zahav was publicly cited as a congregation which had invited speakers simply to learn more about the issue, whether or not any action followed. Other congregations were encouraged to do the same.

Mary Travers spoke movingly on the sanctuary issue, and on her meeting with Ida Nudel and other Jewish activists in the Soviet Union. But for me the most powerful speaker at the conference was Rabbi Marshall Meyer, formerly of Buenos Aires, now at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles. His position in Argentina the last 25 years under Peron and the juntas was much like that of Rabbi Leo Baeck who led the Berlin Jewish community during its darkest days. Rabbi Meyer was always in danger; he probably survived only because he was a prominent American citizen. In his own words: "I wasn't proud the military threatened me — that terrified me. I wasn't proud they threatened my wife and children

(Continued on page 9)



The voting is over: Elected for 1985-86 terms are, in the front row, Vice President, Leslie Bergson; President, Don Albert; Recorder, Richard Inlander. Backing them up are 2 year term Va'ad members Allyce Kimerling, Mike Rankin, Garry Koenigsberg and Shirley Liberman. Absent was new Va'ad member Irene Ogas. Continuing on the Va'ad for one more

year will be Alex Ingersoll, Cheryl Orvis, Jerry Rosenstein and Sharyn Saslafsky.

Parade Preparations Begin

A sure sign of Spring is energetic Sha'ar Zahav members and friends making plans for our participation in the Gay/Lesbian Freedom Day Parade, this year to be held on Sunday, June 30th. We will be marching under our new and improved banner and the newly amplified vocal leadership of Steve Greenberg! It will be an exciting and fun day for all, but to make it even more successful, we need lots of enthusiastic volunteers (particularly monitors and help behind-the-scenes). The planning committee, co-chaired by Shirley Liberman and Chuck Norton, especially needs those who can spare just a couple of hours to help set up and take down the booth and staff it during the day. It's fun to participate and a great way to make new friends.

There will be a meeting of the committee at 7 pm on Thursday, June 6th at the Shul. If you are planning to volunteer, please try to attend or just call Shirley (648-5004), Chuck (431-9721) or leave a message with Marilyn at the Synagogue office.

June 28 Installation

Services on Friday, June 28th, will include the gala installation of Sha'ar Zahav's new officers and Va'ad members for 1985-86, and remarks and thank yous from outgoing President, Leila Raim. Plan on joining us in welcoming the newest members of Sha'ar Zahav's leadership, and in expressing our appreciation to Leila for this past year.

Social Action Soviet Jewry Program

On June 21st, following the Oneg Shabbat, two board members of the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry (BACSJ) will present their findings from an August 1984 peace mission to the Soviet Union. There, Greg Smith and Monica Clark met with Jewish Refuseniks, activists in Moscow and Leningrad, and Catholic dissidents in Lithuania. Smith and Clark will show slides of those meetings, offer their impressions of life for these people in the USSR and welcome questions from the Congregation. This presentation will closely follow a similar program presented recently at the San Francisco Jewish Community Center.

Calendar — BACSJ vigil at the Soviet Consulate: Green at Baker, Wednesday, June 12, 11:30 am to noon. Social Action Committee meeting: Wednesday, June 19, 7 pm at the Synagogue.

—Ron Lezell, Chair
Social Action Committee

SHA'AR ZAHAV ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS!

Tuesday, July 9-7:30 p.m.
in the Sanctuary

For more information, see article
on the Ensemble elsewhere in this
issue of *The Forward*

The Inner Torah A Two Part Workshop

The Congregation is proud to be offering two workshops by the well known Rabbi David Blank. The sessions on Sunday, June 23 and Sunday, July 21 will provide you with a unique understanding of mysticism's impact on your being.

Rabbi Blank has subtitled the workshops "Staying in Touch". As an ordained Hassidic Rabbi, he has been studying and teaching Inner Torah for fifteen years. He emphasizes integrating the ancient and contemporary teachings of the Hassidic tradition with counseling, meditation, healing and transformations.

The two workshops, scheduled from 1-5 pm, will be given at the synagogue. A recommended short reading for individuals planning to attend the workshops is "Fragments of a Future Scroll" by Reb Zalman Schecter. It is available at no charge at the Jewish Community Library with a special one week loan period.

Please use the registration form to complete your registration and assure yourself a space at this unique opportunity.

Staying in Touch A Two Part Workshop

Sunday, June 23, and Sunday, July 21,

1-5 pm

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

I am enclosing the registration fee:

Members \$10.00

Non-Members \$15.00

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in *The Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past month by the following contributors:

To the General Fund-

Ben Schalit, in gratitude to

Steve Greenberg

Gwen Schwartz, in memory of her son, Robert

Jerry Rosenstein, in memory of his brother Hanns

CSZ Ensemble, in appreciation to Annie Kennedy for her sound-mixing assistance at their performance

Enoch Harrison, in honor of CSZ's new rabbi

To the Building Fund-

Walt Leiss, in memory of Al Berkowitz and Shana Rosenberg

Harvey Bartnof, in memory of Ben Blachman

To the Torah Fund-

Susan Greenspan, in celebration of her Aunt Sophia's 86th birthday

David Stein & Alex Ingersoll, in honor of Joan Blazewick & Bill Ashley-Dobbin

To the Prayerbook Fund-

Eric Keitel, in honor of Terry

Rothchild's birthday; in honor of Steve Greenberg's teaching the Torah cantillation class; and in honor of Garry, Leslie, Susan, and Daniel's wonderful leadership of the Seder

Gifts to the Synagogue:

Thanks to **Shirley Liberman**, for donating a food booth for use at the parade and street fairs

Thanks to **Carol Romano Graphics** for the announcements for Purim the Pageant

Thanks to **Bob Hartmann Studios** for props and lighting equipment for Purim the Pageant

To the Passover Maos Chitim Appeal-

Don Albert

Allan Berenstein

Justin Berenstein

Leslie Bergson

Steve Elman

Sy Hertzberg

Garry Koenigsberg

Walt Leiss

Ron Lezell

Andrea Piazza

Ben Schalit

Susan Schulman

Dana Vinicoff

Ensemble Performs For Sherith Israel

Following its stellar performance at the UAHC Regional Conference in San Mateo in February, the Sha'ar Zahav Ensemble was invited to entertain the members of Congregation Sherith Israel (San Francisco) during their annual meeting. The Ensemble added two new songs to its repertoire and presented an exciting half-hour concert on Tuesday night, May 7, before an audience of over 100 people. Our Ensemble members — Harvey Bartnof, Leslie Bergson, Steve Elman, Jonathan Funk, David Gellman, Eric Keitel, Ron Lezell, Jill Rose, Susan Unger and conductor Dana Vinicoff — were very warmly welcomed and were enthusiastically received throughout the performance. Don Albert and Nanci Stern provided moral support in the back of the auditorium and Annie Kennedy provided

sound mixing assistance.

Now that the Spring Concert Season has concluded, the Ensemble can look forward to singing during High Holidays and to a performance at the National UAHC Conference in Los Angeles in early November. For these performances, the Ensemble welcomes a few new members who are willing to make a commitment to learn the current repertoire (mostly by tapes) and attend weekly rehearsals starting in mid-August. Specifically, the Ensemble needs 2 sopranos, 1 alto and 1 bass; however, if there is enough talent out there in all the voice parts, others may be included. Auditions will be held on Tuesday, July 9 at 7:30 pm in the Synagogue Sanctuary. For more information, contact Harvey (239-5200), Jill (534-2339) or Dana (826-1629).



The CSZ Ensemble performing at the May 5th Congregational Meeting.

AIDS Food Drive

We're doing great! Our Food Drive for the S.F. AIDS Foundation began close to a year ago, and the baskets are still getting filled up. We are still making almost weekly deliveries to the Foundation office for use in their residence program. Let's keep filling the collection baskets located in the Oneg Room with dry or canned foods, household items and toiletries — especially those items not covered by food stamps. If you bring just an item or two each week to Friday night services, it will help our brothers immensely.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our Congregation gained two new members in May. A warm welcome to new members:

Laurie Davis
Allen Yanofsky

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

Va'ad Report

June Birthdays!

- 2 Nina Wouk
- 3 David Hyman
- 4 Steve Rosenberg
- 5 Rick Crane
- 6 Larry Sandifer
- 7 Ailsa Steckel
- 9 Allyce Kimerling
- 10 Daniel Chesir
- 10 Paul Getz
- 16 Mike Freedland
- 18 Steve Stone
- 23 Steve Klein
- 26 Marc Lipschutz
- 28 Cynthia Schorr
- 29 Jay Feinstein
- 30 Emma Garay Buchbinder

The May Va'ad meeting was held on the 13th at the Shul. Following a D'var Torah offered by Garry Koenigsberg, Leila Raim presented her President's Report. She announced that she and Catherine plan on attending Rabbi Kahn's ordination next month in New York and that sadly she would not be in town to chair her last Va'ad meeting (next month) before her term expires. Leila also announced that Paul Cohen will be our new delegate to the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

Mike Rankin, our liaison with Union of American Hebrew Congregations, talked about his recent attendance at the Coalition of Conscience sponsored by the Union last month in Washington, D.C. He announced that the Shaar Zahav Ensemble has been formally invited to sing at the National Biennial in Los Angeles this fall, during which there will also be a symposium on homosexuality being planned in conjunction with our sibling congregation, Beth Chayim Chadashim.

The Va'ad voted to offer to host the 10th International Conference of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations in 1987. There was also a vote to adopt a new policy for reading yahrzeits at our Yizkor service, which stated essentially that we will read the names of our members' yahrzeits and of others as requested, but we will not make announcements about this during High Holiday Services.

The Va'ad learned that we have an agreement in principle with Rabbi Kahn regarding his contract, and then per our protocol, went into executive session to discuss the details. David Shaber updated the Va'ad on the plans for the 1985 Advance and Don announced that applications are now being

accepted for the position of High Holiday Coordinator(s). The Va'ad also learned that the position of coordinator of social programs is currently vacant. (Anyone out there interested? Call Don Albert!)

The Building Committee is currently awaiting one more estimate on the plans for the upstairs' renovations and will bring further details to next month's Va'ad meeting. The Bylaws Committee is already at work preparing proposed amendments for the November Congregational Meeting concerning family memberships and the confidentiality of our mailing list.

Two new members, Laurie Davis and Allen Yanofsky, were voted into the congregation. The Ritual Committee announced plans for a Tikkum Shavuot for Saturday, May 25, 1985, and the Social Action Committee announced plans for speakers from the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry to speak after the Oneg on Friday night, June 21, 1985. Lastly, the Va'ad voted to support a demonstration against apartheid in South Africa being organized by a group of prominent people in the local Jewish community to be held on the U.C. Berkeley campus on May 15, 1985.

—Mark Mendelow, Recorder

Office Notes

Security has been improved at the Synagogue. New locks have been installed on the outside doors and on the doors leading from the Oneg Room into the Sanctuary. To maintain security for the building, only a limited number of keys will be signed out to individuals. However, there is now a combination lock on the outside door to the Oneg Room so that anyone needing access to that room for committee meetings, etc. should contact me for the current combination, which is changed regularly.

Also, our thanks to David Wasserman and Eli for their assistance in getting out the mailing for the Congregational Meeting.

Finally, John Golebowski sends his thanks to all the wonderful people who visited and wrote to him during his long illness.

—Marilyn Hertzberg, Administrator

Oneg Sponsors

During the month of April, Friday night Onegs were sponsored by the following generous persons:

April 5 — The Va'ad, in honor of the Congregation

April 12 — CSZ, in honor of Peter Abinanti for his contribution to the shul as Oneg Chair. Not to mention Happy Birthday, too.

April 19 — Cherie Pies and Marsha Blachman, in memory of their friend, Lynn Campbell.

April 26 — Jonathan Goldman, in honor of his and Daniel Chesir's respective new jobs.

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932), or contact Peter Abinanti at 441-0276 or at an Oneg. The cost of sponsoring an Oneg is \$50 (partial sponsorship available) or you can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Attorney

David R. Gellman
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- Business Law & Litigation

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
13	2	14	3	15	17	12 Sivan 1
		Torah Study 7-10pm				19 8
20	9	21	10	22	11	24
		Va'ad Meeting 6:30pm Torah Study 7-10pm Newsletter Deadline			23 Soviet Vigil Green & Baker 11:30am Svelte 7pm	Newsletter Comm. 130-E Landers
27	16	28	17	29	18	30 Tamuz 19
		Torah Study 7-10pm			30 Tamuz 19	Rosh Chodesh I Social Action, 7pm
4	23	5	24	6	7	26
		Workshop: Rabbi D. Blank Inner Torah 1-5pm	Torah Study 7-10pm	East Bay Lunch Group, Lenny 451-1850	Education Comm. 7pm	8 Ritual Co. 6:30pm 631 O'Farrell, Fl.2 Newsletter Mailing 7:30pm 11 Grandview Terrace
11	30					27 9 Installation of Officers & Va'ad
		Gay/Lesbian Freedom Day Parade				10 Morning Services 10:30am

Ritual Calendar

Friday, June 7

Parshah: Be-Ha'ilotcha,
Num. 8:1-12:16

Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14-4:7
Eric Keitel, Services

Friday, June 14

Parshah: Shelach Lecha,
Num. 13:1-15:41

Haftarah: Joshua 2:1-24
Susan Unger, Services

Friday, June 21

Parshah: Korach, Num. 16:1-18:32

Haftarah: I Samuel 11:14-12:22
Daniel Chesir, Services

Friday, June 28

Va'ad and Officers Installation

Parshah: Hukkat, Num. 19:1-22:1

Haftarah: Judges 11:1-33
Jon Funk, Services

Saturday, June 29

Saturday Morning Services,
10:30 a.m.
Terry Rothchild, Services

June Yahrzeits

1	Abraham Vogel, Father of Lee Vogel	19	Sandy Wolin, Friend of Robin Leonard
2	Mark Feldman, Member of Sha'ar Zahav	22	Dorothy Abraham Weiss, Step-mother of Wendy Weiss
2	Margaret Staub, Grandmother of Wendy Weiss	22	Irving Wildberg, Grandfather of Judy Macks
4	Claude Wybrecht, Lover of Ralph Vissell	23	Sidney Hannaford, Father of Stephanie Hannaford
7	(18 Sivan) Fivel Rudman, Grandfather of Rick Crane	23	Manuel Tanovitz, Father of Ed Tanovitz
9	Duff Kreitzberg, Member of Sha'ar Zahav	25	Pauline Lillian Weill, Grandmother of Jill Rose
9	Herman H. Siegel, Father of Barry Siegel	26	Lee Miller, Father of Marilyn Miller
16	(27 Sivan) Perel Berenstein, Grandmother of Allan Berenstein	26	Maurice Sussman, Grandfather of Marianne Sussman
16	Leslie Kravitz, Father of Bob Kravitz	29	(10 Tammuz) Hyman Witt, Father of Sue Witt
17	Joe Zygielbaum, Member of Sha'ar Zahav	30	(11 Tammuz) Jenny Kirsh, Grandmother of Mel Kirsh
18	(29 Sivan) Morris Toporek, Grandfather of Elliot Toporek	30	Thomas Tannenhaus, Cousin of Judah Katz
19	Henriette Kahn Wildberg, Grandmother of Judy Macks		Note: Yahrzeits will be read at services on the Friday preceding the Yahrzeit date.

So Ask Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

I am so excited to hear that we will soon have a new rabbi! This means our services from now on will really count. But must the rabbi do everything in the service, or only the important parts?

Expectant in Elmwood

Dear Expectant,

Aunt Yente shares your excitement about our new rabbi; but so excited by him that she expects him to do her praying for her, she's not. (So excited that her pronouns are even more roccoco than usual, however, she is.) As a learned and respected member of the mishpochoh, the rabbi is a very likely choice to lead services; but a service that the rabbi leads doesn't "count" any more (or less) than a service led by a clerk, or a computer programmer, or even a lawyer. (Well, maybe not a lawyer. Aunt Yente can't help feeling that when we confess our sins in shul, it isn't nice there should be plea bargaining).

(You shouldn't think that the only advantage of a rabbi is that lawyers will be on the bimoh less often. The biggest advantage, maybe, but not the only one.) (Why is Aunt Yente going on like this?)

But your question has a problem in it that goes beyond rabbis, when you ask, who can "do" a prayer. If you mean, who can say a prayer in the service to fulfill your obligation for you, the answer is no one – not a rabbi, and not anyone else – not even a very good lawyer. (Here we go again.) Just standing by while someone else prays is almost as much against Jewish tradition as just standing by while someone else eats. Praying is not something other people can do for you.

When Friday night comes, it's your obligation to pray the Friday night service. If you can't get to a synagogue, so you say it at home. If you can get to a synagogue (and Aunt Yente is not listening to any excuses) then you can say the prayers along with other people, and this is better. The service in the synagogue has more in it – the Borchu and the Kaddish you say only when you pray in a minyan, a group of ten or more people – and praying in a place of learning, a place where the Torah is, is also better. But it is not the "going to synagogue", or the person on the bimoh, which is the most important part of your responsibility; it is saying the prayers yourself.

Aunt Yente knows some of her beloved readers are already saying "Aha! Aunt Yente says I don't have to go to shul on Friday

nights." This, Aunt Yente is not saying. First of all, be honest: if you stay home on Friday nights, will your mind be on Ahavat Olam or will you be waiting to see what happens to Bobby Ewing? For another thing, the Talmud says that if there is a synagogue you can go to and you don't go to it, you are accounted a bad neighbor. Presumably, people can then throw things on your lawn. So an excuse for not coming Aunt Yente is not going to give you; but you will please remember that when you come, it is you who have to do the praying.

Mostly, Aunt Yente blames the whole idea, that the person in the front does your praying for you, on television. Too many of Aunt Yente's kinderlach spend so many hours on the couch holding the remote control that they begin thinking that everything important happens across the room, to something they look at and listen to, and that a prayer cannot move them unless Alistaire Cooke comes out and says "This next prayer is particularly moving." This is why the Rambam, for one, never owned a television set (although he always seemed to be visiting friends on Wednesday nights at nine).

But Aunt Yente knows what you're asking next. If a rabbi can't pray for us, so what good is a rabbi? There is a lot your Aunt Yente can say about this, but it would take a long time, and you know how your Aunt Yente hates to be long-winded. So briefly, (stop laughing) we Jews have had rabbis for more than two thousand years, and they have been our judges, our counselors, and our teachers. Today, we mostly take financial arguments to the courts (where the lawyers hang out when they're not on the bimoh), although in some orthodox communities a *bais din* of one or more rabbis is the judge for business disputes. Aunt Yente would like to see this become part of Reform tradition too, although she doesn't know if this is happening yet.

As for counseling, Aunt Yente has heard that some of her friends go to people called psychoterrorists, and they ask lots of questions and give you insights. Aunt Yente herself has never known any problem that enough long-chain carbohydrates couldn't solve (except maybe the fact that she is beginning to resemble the Michelin Tire man), but in any event a rabbi is a different kind of counselor. A rabbi also can listen and can help someone understand, but is not likely to become part of years of introspection. A rabbi's special strength in counseling comes because a rabbi sticks by a special set of values, the ones taught in the

Torah. Maybe we all believe in kindness and justice and the pursuit of peace and the other things that we talk about in shul, but applying them to our lives is something that we don't yet do so well that a little professional help would hurt.

And this is the heart of the rabbi's role: being a teacher. The title we give to the most important prophet in our history, Moses, is meant to show our ultimate respect by calling him "Moshe rabeinu" – Moses, our rabbi; Moses our teacher. Our religion centers on teaching; we were given the Torah to teach us how to act. Our part, of course, is to live the way we've been taught. A rabbi can't do our living for us any more than a rabbi can do our praying for us; but maybe, if we pay attention, we can learn just a little better how we should act towards each other, and towards everyone else. As Aunt Yente told you at the beginning of her column, she too is very excited.

Aunt Yente

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of *The Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114. Only a limited number of questions can be answered in *The Forward*, so if you want a personal answer, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. All material © 1985 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

CSZ Gets Fashion

How can you be the most fashionable person in this year's Gay/Lesbian Freedom Day Parade? Such a question is easy to answer ... buy a Sha'ar Zahav T-shirt or sweatshirt. Better yet ... become a fashion trendsetter and get into the layered look. Wear your CSZ sweatshirt over your CSZ T-shirt and always be in appropriate attire, regardless of the weather. Our merchandise is the finest quality goods, in beautiful white with blue lettering and our Congregation's logo.

Sweats and T's will be available through our Synagogue Office for a donation of \$7.50 for T-shirts and \$15.00 for sweatshirts. Just call Marilyn to order yours. Items can be picked up during office hours or on Friday nights during the Oneg Shabbat. Supply is limited so act now and be part of the fashionable group at this year's parade on June 30.

Schindler

(Continued from page 3)

— that made me crazy. But I was proud that they hated my guts!" If there was ever a giant of justice, he is it.

When Mary Travers was with the "prisoners of conscience" in the Soviet Union, she sang a wonderful song called "Carry On You Sweet Survivor, Carry On the Dream". It was recorded secretly, passed around all over Russia, and has become the anthem of the refuseniks. It was sung after she and Rabbi Meyer finished speaking. Beautiful.

Now the debate. First of all, Jerry Falwell didn't show up! He called in sick several hours before it was to be held, and on very short notice Rev. Pat Robertson, head of the Christian Broadcast Network agreed to drive up from Virginia. That changed the character of things a bit, because everyone appreciated his willingness to step in on such short notice. And though he is definitely a spokesperson for the religious right, he is not Falwell. In fact, one gathers they do not see eye to eye on some things. He said, for instance, that only 20% of evangelicals support the Moral (sic) Majority. Reminded of some of the more outrageous things the radical right had said, he replied, "Well, you know you Jews have your Meir Kahane — !" The debate was held at the Washington Hebrew Congregation, and all 3000 seats were filled. The whole community had been invited, so all opinions and religious traditions were represented. Pat Robertson spoke first.

He began by restating his strong unquestioned support for the State of Israel, for all the policies of all its governments. (Support from the religious right comes mainly from a passage in the New Testament which says that Jesus will not return until all the Jews are again in Israel. So the evangelicals do all they can to hasten that process, and to encourage the Jews to become evangelical Christians once they get there.) Then he stated the evangelical agenda. Basically it is that the framers of the Constitution never expected it to be a secular document offering protection to non-Christians. It was written by trinitarian Christians, and although they would now extend those protections to believing Jews, we had better join forces with them against our common enemy, the secular humanists (especially Unitarians). They see the federal government as intrusive, inefficient and inept, and want it off our backs. But then they want the churches to step in as the government steps out. That, they believe, is what America is all about.



A happy and relieved Rabbi Search Committee (left to right and front to rear): Cheryl Orvis and Sharyn Saslafsky; Aaron Cooper and Leila Raim, Co-Chairs; Mark Mendelow, Daniel

Chesir and Jon Funk. Their 2-year task ended with the Congregational vote on May 5 to accept the Committee's recommendation to hire Rabbi Kahn.

Rabbi Schindler, who is President of the UAHC spoke next. He thanked Rev. Robertson sincerely for coming on such short notice, and thanked him also for his support of Israel. And then, quietly, powerfully, eloquently, he challenged Robertson's every point. The rabbi pointed out the danger of the intrusion of the church into the public lives of citizens of our country. He recounted the experience we Jews and other minorities have had in countries where church and state are not separate. He lamented the tendency of evangelicals to label those who disagree with them "agents of the devil" and "forces of darkness". How, he wondered, can the religious right say the real issue is freedom — and then seek to deny freedom to gay people and to women? Why is the religious right so terribly concerned with what goes on in people's bedrooms — and so little concerned about what goes on in the poor communities of this nation, where many people are hungry, and have inadequate housing and health care.

How can the right be so arrogant — even blasphemous — as to claim they alone know God's will on the ERA, on gun control, on Central America! The debate continued like that for a little longer. Everyone probably left reassured that his or her side had "got 'em told"!

I know my side won. When Rabbi Schindler publicly defended the rights of gays and women, both gay and non-gay, that was win enough for me!

Rabbi Harold Schulweis says that when he begins his Seder the cup of Elijah, the herald of the messianic age, is empty. During the Seder everyone around the table spills a little of his or her wine into Elijah's cup, symbolizing a commitment to work with God to bring about a time of justice and peace. Maybe that's what those who were in Washington were doing — renewing the commitment, carrying on the dream. The problems are massive, but they are not insolvable, and the struggle is worth the cost!

I have attempted to write about these matters dispassionately and objectively. This was a report of a conference I attended, not an editorial. but if you want to know what I think, just ask me!

—Mike Rankin

Bernard D. Pechter

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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Caselli at Danvers, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market Streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus no. 33 (Ashbury line) to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 p.m., with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. – check calendar for each month.

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Allan Berenstein
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Sharyn Saslafsky

Administrator: Marilyn Hertzberg
The Synagogue Office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. At other times, please leave a phone message.

Emergency Number: In an emergency situation, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 864-0475 between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Committee Chairs:

Bikur Cholim, Rabbi Ben Marcus
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Social Action, Ron Lezell
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Alita Rosenfeld
Jerry Rosenstein

Letters

To Sha'ar Zahav,

I am a soon-to-be parent and would like to see my daughter become an integral part of Sha'ar Zahav too. I would like to explore the possibilities of child care and eventually religious education at the shul. I'd love to hear from other people interested in working on this also. If you are interested, or think you might be, call me at 534-1606 before June 15 or after June 29.

Sue Douglass

Bitburg controversy had the positive effect of consciousness-raising on a national scale and coalescing diverse groups on the issue. Thanks for giving me this opportunity to turn the horse's ass into the horse's mouth.

Jerry Rosenstein

Classified Ads

"IN-LAW" STUDIO in Bernal Heights avail. June/July. Quiet woman's home. Rent \$300. Call Shirley Liberman, 648-5004.

ROOM WANTED, 1-3 WEEKS in August: LA Temple member wishes to rent spare room in SF during August vacation. Am male, quiet, neat, responsible professional. Non-smoker. Interested in similar arrangements for Nov, Feb, May. Jerry, (H) 213 / 450-9520.

COUNSELING BY LICENSED PSYCHOTHERAPIST. Specialties include working with single Gay men in the age of AIDS; cross-cultural couples counseling; counseling the terminally ill and those close to them; support groups for newly recovering substance abusers; and therapy groups for Gay men who experienced childhood physical abuse, sexual abuse or emotional neglect. Call Alan Ellis, MFCC, at (415) 285-3310. Noe Valley location. Lic. No. MS20011. Insurance accepted.

Why Weight?

Many of us consider our body size to be wrong. Too fat, too skinny, lumpy in all the wrong places. Hooked on the wrong foods and caught in living patterns that are not often to our best advantage or interests. Yet inertia keeps us stuck. It's time to come unglued. On Wednesday, June 12th, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will start its own weight support group — Svelte, which will meet upstairs at the Synagogue at 7 pm. For those interested in joining, please call Marilyn at 861-6932.

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